

Speaker and those on his right and left will be open. No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance which is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privileges of the floor must be strictly adhered to. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is required.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, September 7, 2000, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at about 9:52 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

□ 0945

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Richard Wilson, announced the President pro tempore and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN);

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER);

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN); and

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The President pro tempore of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS);

The Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK);

The Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL);

The Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY); and

The Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Kingsley Layne, Ambassador of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

□ 1007

At 10 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Prime Minister of India, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Prime Minister VAJPAYEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President pro tem, honorable Members of the United States Congress, it is with a deep sense of honor that I speak to you today. I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the Members of the Congress, for giving me this opportunity.

In November 1999, a remarkable event took place in the House of Representatives. By a vote 396 to 4, the House adopted a resolution congratulating India and my government on the successful elections completed in October 1999. This display of broad-based bipartisan support for strengthening relations with India is heartening. It is a source of encouragement to both Presi-

dent Clinton and to me, as we work together to infuse a new quality in our ties. I thank you for the near-unique approach that you have adopted towards my country.

Those of you who saw the warm response to President Clinton's speech to our Parliament in March this year will recognize that similar cross-party support exists in India as well for deeper engagement with the United States of America.

I am also deeply touched by the resolution adopted in the House 2 days ago welcoming my visit and the prospect of close Indo-U.S. understanding. I am equally encouraged by the resolution adopted by the Senate yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, American people have shown that democracy and individual liberty provide the conditions in which knowledge progresses, science discovers, innovation occurs, enterprise thrives, and, ultimately, people advance.

To more than a million and a half from my country, America is now home. In turn, their industry, enterprise and skills are contributing to the advancement of American society.

I see in the outstanding success of the Indian community in America a metaphor of the vast potential that exists in Indo-U.S. relations, of what we can achieve together. Just as American experience has been a lesson in what people can achieve in a democratic framework, India has been the laboratory of a democratic process rising to meet the strongest challenges that can be flung at it.

In the half century of our independent existence, we have woven an exquisite tapestry. Out of diversity we have brought unity. The several languages of India speak with one voice under the roof of our Parliament.

In your remarkable experiment as a Nation state, you have proven the same truth. Out of the huddled masses that you welcomed to your shores, you have created a great Nation.

For me, the most gratifying of the many achievements of Indian democracy has been the change it has brought to the lives of the weak and the vulnerable. To give just one figure, in recent years it has enabled more than a million women in small towns and distant villages to enter local elected councils and to decide on issues that touch upon their lives.

□ 1015

Two years ago, while much of Asia was convulsed by economic crises, India held its course. In the last 10 years, we have grown at 6.5 percent per year. That puts India among the 10 fastest growing economies of the world.

Economic activity gets more and more diversified by the year. President Clinton and many among the friends gathered here have had occasion to glimpse our advances in information technology.

We are determined to sustain the momentum of our economy. Our aim is to

double our per capita income in 10 years, and that means we must grow at 9 percent a year.

To achieve this order of growth, we have ushered in comprehensive reforms. We are committed to releasing the creative genius of our people, the entrepreneurial skills of the men and women of the country, of its scientists and craftsmen. At the same time, we in India remain committed to the primacy of the State in fulfilling its social obligations to the deprived, the weak, and the poor.

Important sectors of the country's infrastructure, power, insurance, banking, telecom, are being opened to private initiative, domestic and foreign. Trade barriers are being lowered.

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, there are forces outside our country that believe that they can use terror to unravel the territorial integrity of India. They wish to show that a multi-religious society cannot exist. They pursue a task in which they are doomed to fail.

No country has faced as ferocious an attack of terrorist violence as India has over the past 2 decades. Twenty-one thousand were killed by foreign sponsored terrorists in Punjab alone, and 16,000 have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir.

As many of you here in the Congress have in recent hearings recognized a stark fact: no region is a greater source of terrorism than our neighborhood. Indeed, in our neighborhood, in this, the 21st century, religious war has not just been fashioned into, it has been proclaimed to be, an instrument of State policy.

Distance offers no insulation. It should not cause complacency. You know and I know such evil cannot succeed. But even in failing, it could inflict untold suffering. That is why the United States and India have begun to deepen their cooperation for combating terrorism. We must redouble these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, there was a time when we were on the other side of each other's globes. Today, on every digital map, India and the United States are neighbors and partners.

India and the United States have taken the lead in shaping the information age. Over the last decade, this new technology has sustained American prosperity in a way that has challenged conventional wisdom on economic growth. We are two nations blessed with extraordinary resources and talent. Measured in terms of the industries of tomorrow, we are together defining the partnerships of the future.

But our two countries have the potential to do more to shape the character of the global economy in this century. We should turn the example of our own cooperation into a partnership that uses the possibilities of the new technologies for defining new ways of fighting poverty, illiteracy, hunger, disease, and pollution.

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, we believe that India and America can, and should, march hand in hand towards a world in which economic conditions improve for all. A situation that provides comfortable living standards to one-third of the world's population, but condemns the remaining two-thirds to poverty and want is unsustainable.

The foremost responsibility that the 21st century has cast on all of us is to change this unacceptable legacy of the past. It should be our common endeavor to overcome this legacy. I, therefore, propose a comprehensive global dialogue on development. We would be happy to offer New Delhi as the venue for this dialogue.

In this Congress, you have often expressed concern about the future contours of Asia. Will it be an Asia that will be at peace with itself? Or will it be a continent where countries seek to redraw boundaries and settle claims, historical or imaginary, through force?

We seek an Asia where power does not threaten stability and security. We do not want the domination of some to crowd out the space for others. We must create an Asia where cooperative rather than aggressive assertion of national self-interests defines behavior among nations.

If we want an Asia fashioned on such ideals, a democratic, prosperous, tolerant, pluralistic, stable Asia, if we want an Asia where our vital interests are secure, then it is necessary for us to re-examine old assumptions.

It is imperative for India and the United States to work together more closely in pursuit of these goals. In the years ahead, a strong, democratic and economically prosperous India standing at the crossroads of all of the major cultural and economic zones of Asia will be an indispensable factor of stability in the region.

Our cooperation for peace and stability requires us to also define the principles of our own engagement. We must be prepared to accommodate our respective concerns. We must have mutual confidence to acknowledge our respective roles and complementary responsibilities in areas of vital importance to each of us.

Security issues have cast a shadow on our relationship. I believe this is unnecessary. We have much in common and no clash of interests.

We both share a commitment to ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons. We have both declared voluntary moratoriums on testing.

India understands your concerns. We do not wish to unravel your non-proliferation efforts. We wish you to understand our security concerns.

We are at a historic moment in our ties. As we embark on our common endeavor to build a new relationship, we must give practical shape to our shared belief that democracies can be friends, partners, and allies.

In recent years, through all of the good and difficult times, we have spo-

ken to each other more often than we have ever done in the past. I thank President Clinton for his leadership and vision in steering this dialogue. I sincerely thank Members of this Congress for supporting and encouraging this process.

As we talk with candor, we open the doors to new possibilities and new areas of cooperation, in advancing democracy, in combating terrorism, in energy and environment, science and technology, and in international peace-keeping. And we are discovering that our shared values and common interests are leading us to seek a natural partnership of shared endeavors.

India and the United States have taken a decisive step away from the past. The dawn of the new century has marked a new beginning in our relations.

Let us work to fulfill this promise and the hope of today.

Let us remove the shadow of hesitation that lies between us and our joint vision.

Let us use the strength of all that we have in common to build together a future that we wish for ourselves and for the world that we live in.

Thank you.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m., the Prime Minister of India, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

□ 1030

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess until approximately 11 a.m.

□ 1104

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.